



Padre Island National Seashore
SandDollar



Friday, May 28, 2004

To My Park Family -

Thank you all for giving me such a wonderful retirement send-off last week. The potluck was a feast - as usual - and I really appreciate the hard work everyone put into fixing & bringing the side dishes, doing the barbequing, and cleaning up afterwards. All the food was delicious! (I wish I could have eaten more than I did, it was sooooo good.)

I loved all your beautiful gifts. My house is "coastal" decorated so the vase with the dolphins, the candleholder with sea turtles, the beachy mugs, the "big-surprise" framed picture from the Turtle Team, the beach bag full of everything needed for relaxing on the boat or beach - everything fits in perfectly! It all will remind me of the great bunch of folks I worked with and the 12 wonderful years I spent at a most beautiful place - PAIS. Thank you for everything...



Gone Fishing
Marilyn

Superintendent

Colin's schedule:

- Monday, 5/31 – Memorial Day Holiday
- Tuesday, 6/1 – In the Park; Squad Meeting @ 9 am
- Wed., 6/2 – In the Park
- Thurs., 6/3 – Off-site Park Management Retreat
- Friday, 6/4 – In the Park

Safety Notes--

Your contributions are greatly appreciated for the SandDollar and the safety bulletin board. Please send safety contributions to Pat.

Let's continue to encourage each other to be safe.

Make it a safe day.

FIRST AID & CPR CLASS - -
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2004,
AT 8AM TO 3PM-ISH
TRAINING ROOM IN THE TRAILER

Chiefs and supervisors please send names to Pat by email or voice mail as soon as possible. Thank you!

Employees Association News - Jerry Seinfeld will be performing at the Selena Auditorium at 7:00 pm on Friday, July 16, 2005. Tickets go on sale May 22, 2004. If you are interested in attending please let Dimitra know. Tickets will be approximately \$45.00 + a service charge. An 8 ticket limit per purchaser is being enforced. If more than 8 people would like to go, we will definitely need an additional 'ticket buyer.'

Administration

Jeanie's last name has changed. It is now Vivian. So, Jeanie Goff is now Jeanie Vivian.

Visitor Use Assistant Vacancy: The Visitor Use Assistant (fee collector) position is now open through June 2. Applications must be sent to Petrified Forest and must be received by 3:00 p.m. on the closing date (NOT POSTMARKED). Announcement PAIS-E-5A all sources; Announcement PAIS-E-5B merit promotion.

Maintenance Worker Vacancy: There have been some corrections to the vacancy announcement for the Maintenance Worker, WG-4749-5 position and the usajobs website has been corrected. Big Bend is advertising the vacancy. Closing date will be June 4, 2004. Three (3) positions, part time – 32 hours per week; may be required to work weekends and holidays. This position is open to the general public and merit promotion. All applications must be sent to Big Bend.

The above announcements are posted at www.usajobs.opm.gov and a copies have been put on the HQ bulletin board.

Joe Hanisco's last day is June 11.

UPCOMING TEL EVENTS:

| DATE | DAY | BROADCAST | TIME |
|--------|-----------|--|-------------------|
| 3-Jun | Thursday | The Interpretive Analysis Model | 12:00-4:00pm |
| 8-Jun | Tuesday | Interpretive Techniques/Create Opportunities for Connection | 12:00-4:00pm |
| 10-Jun | Thursday | Administrative Grievances-What You Don't Know Could Hurt You | 2:00-4:30pm |
| 15-Jun | Tuesday | Informal Interpretation | 12:00-4:00pm |
| 16-Jun | Wednesday | The Interpretive Process Model | 12:00-4:00pm |
| 22-Jun | Tuesday | Partnership Agreements | ? |
| 13-Jul | Tuesday | Grant Proposals for External Funding | ? |
| 19-Jul | Monday | NPS Recreation & Preservation Programs | 1:30-3:30pm |
| 10-Aug | Tuesday | Dealing with Misconduct & Progressive Discipline | 10:00- 12:00pm |
| 10-Aug | Tuesday | Resolving Performance Issues | 2:00-4:00pm |
| 26-Aug | Thursday | Retirement Planning for New Employees | 2:00-4:00pm |

TEL training

The TEL training registration has changed. For all future classes, you must notify Jeanie which course you want to take, she will have to register the site, then the employee will have to go to <http://mylearning.nps.gov> to register themselves for the class.

My Learning Manager will also have all other service wide training listed and the employee will sign up for classes/training. Once an employee registers for a class an email will automatically be sent to their supervisor for approval.

Facility Management

Please be patient with the contractors installing the sprinkler system in the Headquarters building. There will be some necessary inconvenience related to noise, fumes from soldering pipes, and debris. Every effort will be made to minimize the impact on working operations. The contractors are working as quickly as possible. Thank you for your cooperation.

Facility Management is in the process of taking over the fuel system and vehicle operations from Administration. Luis is working on updating the fuel pumps to include new software where the current key system will be replaced.

Interpretation

On Saturday, May 22, about 25 scouts and parents in Scout Troop 230 from Katy, Texas picked up about 15 bags of trash around the 4.5 mile marker in about an hour. They were rewarded with certificates for their effort and some left over candy bars (not yet expired) and Frisbees from the adopt-a-beach clean-up.

As everyone may recall, last year before he left, Jock requested that I photograph everyone on the staff. I have taken those photos and placed them on the shared drive under s:/graphics/staff for anyone who wants one or wants to view them. If you do not like your own photo, please feel free to delete it.

Protection

This past Saturday a park visitor suffered a fatal heart attack at mile 42 despite the determined efforts of park employees. Special recognition goes to Leah Shafer, Dale Kohlmetz, Shara Kilarski, and Linda Moorehead for their lifesaving efforts as well as the professionalism they all exhibited during the incident.

Also last Saturday Pat Donohue organized a boating safety campaign at BIB that included park rangers, TX Parks and Wildlife, and USCG Auxiliary. All boaters were given a free boat safety inspection and a packet of information to improve boating safety in the park. Over 50 boaters were contacted with a lot of good will established between the park and the boating public.

This past Monday night/Tuesday morning 3 vehicles at BIB were burglarized. All employees are asked to be alert to suspicious behavior or persons at BIB and report anything unusual to dispatch or a ranger.

Next Thursday you will hear a new voice on the radio as Marilyn McConkey will dispatch for the park one day a week as she begins her new life as a retiree. Thank you Marilyn for graciously volunteering to spend part of your retirement time with us.

Last week a number of employees in various divisions attended fire training at Lufkin. News reports indicated that Doug Briggs and Jason Lichtblau won a number of honors for Padre Island National Seashore in their skills proficiency at the engine academy.

Item below submitted to the national morning report this week.

On the morning of May 21st, park rangers located an abandoned shark boat from Mexico in the surf line five miles south of the park's visitor center. Interviews with park visitors documented that an organized smuggling operation had occurred the previous night. No substantial leads have been developed at this time. During the afternoon of May 22nd, park rangers became aware of

two vehicles at the Mansfield Channel that were believed to be transporting undocumented aliens. Surveillance was begun by the NPS and later continued by the Border Patrol. The two vehicles left the Mansfield Channel area later in the day. Both vehicles were stopped near the park's entrance station. A total of 11 undocumented immigrants from Mexico were apprehended. Then, in the early morning hours of May 24th, a park ranger seized 15 bales of marijuana weighing a total of 514.5 pounds. The bales were cached on the beach near the 41 mile marker and covered in seaweed in an effort to conceal the load likely delivered by a shark boat the previous evening.

Resources Management

Projects:

- Air Quality sample session has begun. The sample moment will occur between May 27 to June 23.

Oil and Gas

- BNP has begun drilling the Peach well. Drilling is progressing well and they were able to drill 500ft in 12 hrs on May 27. Drilling will continue for another 25 days.

Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery

THE SEA TURTLE DIVISION WANTS TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO MARILYN and thank her for all of her hard work to support them over the years. We will miss her and wish her all of the very best.

SEVERAL KEMP'S RIDLEY NESTS HAVE BEEN FOUND RECENTLY! And, on May 22, we had our most exciting day yet for the Kemp's ridley project at Padre Island National Seashore. Six Kemp's ridley sea turtles came ashore to lay their eggs in a group nesting known as an *arribada* on May 22. The 590 eggs from these six nests are being incubated in a sea turtle biological facility at park headquarters and which will probably hatch sometime between July 8-13. One of these nests was found on Galveston Island and five on

North Padre Island, including four from Padre Island National Seashore that were detected at the 7, 25, 46, and 59 mile markers. This was the most Kemp's ridley nests recorded on the Texas coast in a single day.

Thanks to turtle patrollers, many agencies and groups, and the public, 26 Kemp's ridley nests have been discovered on Texas beaches so far this year (through May 24), exceeding the yearly totals for all other years of record except 2002, when 38 Kemp's ridley nests were located. The 2004 nests include one discovered on Bolivar Peninsula, two on Galveston Island, one near Surfside in Brazoria County, one on Mustang Island, two on North Padre Island north of Padre Island National Seashore, 12 at Padre Island National Seashore, three on South Padre Island, and four on Boca Chica Beach. Eggs from all nests except those found on South Padre Island and Boca Chica Beach were transferred to our incubation facility at Padre Island National Seashore for protected care. The eggs from South Padre and Boca Chica were transferred to a corral (screen enclosed area) on South Padre Island.

The first hatchling release of the year was held on May 24. About 100 visitors watched 32 turtles from nest # 1 crawl down the beach and enter the surf. The turtles were exceptionally speedy, taking only about 10 minutes to all get in the water. The Corpus Christi Caller Times and three local network affiliates provided coverage about the release and recent nestings on May 23, 24, and 25. The later hatching turtles from this nest were released by the staff on May 25, 26, and 27.

The hatchlings from the other clutches will be released when they are physically ready and enter their infantile frenzy, typically sometime during a span of a few days that Donna predicts. The release date predictions for the nests currently held in the incubation facility are listed in the table below. This table will also be posted on the Padre Island National Seashore website (www.nps.gov/pais/), under the heading of upcoming events. As during past years, the staff and public will be invited to attend many of our hatchling releases. However, it is not possible to invite people to watch those releases that occur when the turtles enter their frenzy at unpredictable times, during the night, or during weather conditions that could be unsafe for

the turtles or people (i.e., thunderstorms, very high tides, etc.). So, to increase the chance of seeing a release, we advise interested individuals to try to attend when hatchlings from more than one nest are predicted to be released. As we near the predicted release dates for each clutch, Donna will update information about the releases on the Hatchling Hotline (telephone 361-949-7163). As during previous years, the Hatchling Hotline will be the best source of the most current information on the next release.

**PREDICTED HATCHLING RELEASE DATES FOR NESTS BEING HELD AT
THE
PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE INCUBATION FACILITY**

| Nest # (Species) | Date Found | Hatchlings will Likely be Released Sometime Between these Dates |
|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1 (Kemp's ridley) | April 5 | Released May 24-26 |
| 2 (Kemp's ridley) | April 17 | June 3-8 |
| 5 (Kemp's ridley) | April 26 | June 13-18 |
| 6, 7 (Kemp's ridley) | May 1 | June 17-23 |
| 8 (Kemp's ridley) | May 2 | June 18-24 |
| 10, 11 (Kemp's ridley) | May 11 | June 27-July 2 |
| 14 (Kemp's ridley) | May 14 | June 30-July 5 |
| 15, 16 (Kemp's ridley) | May 17 | July 3-8 |
| 18 (Kemp's ridley) | May 21 | July 7-12 |
| 19-24 (Kemp's ridley) | May 22 | July 8-13 |
| 25 (Kemp's ridley) | May 23 | July 9-14 |

Note that nests 3, 4, 9, 12, 13, 17, and 26 are being held in a corral on South Padre Island, Texas

PLEASE CONTINUE TO WATCH FOR AND HELP PROTECT KEMP'S RIDLEYS - Kemp's ridleys will continue to nest on the Texas coast through about mid-July, with the peak part of the season extending from mid-May through mid-June and lesser levels of nesting from mid-June through mid-July. Donna thinks that we will get at least one more large pulse of nesting this year and it might be as early as this weekend since the winds are predicated to increase then. Please continue to watch for nesting ridleys and their tracks while you are on the beach. Earlier this season most of the nesters crossed the entire beach width to nest at the base of the dunes, but most of the recent nests have been lower on the beach, at about the mid-beach road or a bit lower on the beach. It is critical that we find these nesting turtles and their eggs so that they do not fall victim to a

variety of human related and natural threats that could kill or harm them.

Poaching of eggs and crushing of nesting turtles are two potential threats that you could help address through public education and being watchful.

When responding to a nest 3.5 miles south of Bob Hall Pier on the Kleberg County Beach, Donna was approached by a homeless man who came and told her that it was a good thing that we found the eggs before he did because he would have eaten them. Donna told him that this would have been illegal and punishable with a fine of up to \$20,000. He laughed and said that we would have had to sue him for it since he had nothing. This incident highlights that the turtles and eggs are vulnerable on the beach to those who might harm them intentionally or unintentionally. It is important that we continue to educate the public about the protected status of these turtles.

Another potential threat is that nesting turtles could be struck by passing vehicles. A nesting ridley was struck and likely killed on the Matagorda Peninsula in 2002. For two of the nests found here this year, visitors reported that the turtles nested in the beach vehicular roadway and they almost hit the turtles (thankfully they did not). These turtles go into a trancelike state when laying eggs and will not move for an approaching vehicle. Also, they blend in tremendously well with the beach vegetation and sand. They sometimes are nearly covered with sand during nesting, especially on windy days when sand blows on them. Please continue to pass the word to visitors, staff, volunteers, and contractors to be "on the lookout" for nesters while they are on the beach and to report observations to Donna or a passing turtle patroller immediately.

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